

## THE SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT

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F. R. McCORMACK, EDITOR.

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Our Live Oak Christmas might well serve as a model for the rest of the country in those respects in which there is such urgent need of reform. There was no lawlessness or rowdiness worth mentioning, no drunkenness in sight, barring a mild case or two, and thousands of people of both races mingled on the streets in perfect good humor and in the true Christmas spirit.

Judge Reeves doubtless felt that he was blessed above all men in the Christmas gift he got by the withdrawal of Mr. Blount from the senatorial race, thus leaving him as the only West Florida man in the field for that office. Judge Reeves is a man of strong character and ability, said to be very popular in West Florida, and the withdrawal of Mr. Blount may improve his prospects for getting in the second primary.

The great world-question that has rolled unanswered down the ages in thunderous tones, "Who struck Billy Patterson?" has at last been side-tracked by the more momentous query, "Where is Dr. Cook?" The season being Christmas and Doc. being in deep trouble, our guess is that's he's off on a drunk, and under such circumstances you know how hard it is to find a fellow sometimes when he wants to lay low and has the price to pay for the privilege.

The returns are all in from the late Christmas festivities, and the number of murders and other forms of criminal violence in the States most given to such expressions of Christmas hilarity is perhaps fully up to the average. Education to develop and train weak and primitive brains, sobriety to keep down the lawless instincts and impulses of human nature, and an administration of the criminal law that will make it in fact what it was intended to be, but from which it is at a distance too vast now to compute—these in time will give us a civilized Christmas free from bloodstain and debauch. But how long, Oh, Lord! how long?

The withdrawal of Hon. W. A. Blount from the senatorial race last week was something of a political sensation. Mr. Blount publishes at length his reasons for the surprising step he has taken, and those reasons in substance are that his health was suffering under the strain of the canvass he was making, and the constant personal appeal to voters to support him had become intolerably humiliating, putting him, as it did, in the attitude of a suppliant beseeching favors. He was not discouraged by his prospects, but solely for the reasons given he preferred to withdraw to the seclusion and independence of private life to which he had been accustomed. Mr. Blount will suffer no loss in the high opinion of his fellow-citizens by this step, and his statement of his motives will be accepted as absolutely true. His second reason for withdrawing is really unique in this age, and seems to be so little understood or appreciated by candidates in general that we feel it a duty to publish it. He says:

"Second: There is another reason, less tangible, but to me no less real—my repugnance to the personal solicitation of votes, either by a direct request of the voter, or by an exhibition of myself to him for the sole purpose of a tacit solicitation. I foresaw hesitancy on my part to do this, but I thought that a short practice would make it a thing first endured—and then embraced, but I find the disinclination growing greater day by day. Of course I would have strength enough to endure this during a campaign, even though it were much more onerous, but I do not feel that the prize is worth the humiliation and the

## INJUSTICE TO FRANK CLARK.

Congressman Clark's enemies betray the poverty of their arguments against his re-election when they charge him with making "grand stand plays" because he has again introduced in congress his bill to provide for the payment to the State of Florida of nearly one million dollars, cotton tax illegally collected by the Government from our people back in the sixties; and also because he has reintroduced his measure to levy an import duty on Egyptian and other long staple cotton coming into this country in competition with our Sea Island product. That the ends sought to be reached by both these measures are much to be desired and would be very helpful to the people of Florida will not be denied, and this being true, we should be glad to know in what other way Mr. Clark could move to reach them. He has done the only right thing possible in the premises; if he had done less it might have been charged against him with some show of reason that he had not been sufficiently prompt and alert in renewing his efforts to accomplish the work he had inaugurated at a previous session.

It is not disputed that the cotton tax which Mr. Clark seeks to have returned to our people, was illegally collected, and nothing but the arbitrary will of a republican majority in congress stands in the way of repayment. Mr. Clark is appealing to the sense of justice in that majority to do right in the matter, and he is making material headway along that line at each session of congress. That is the only way to win, and if he persists in his endeavors it is reasonably sure that he will win. But if he does not, that will be the end of it and the people of Florida will never get back that million dollars illegally taken from them under color of law at a time when there wasn't much justice for the South in either Federal legislation or administration. But war judges having nearly disappeared in congress, Mr. Clark's bill, or one like it, will become law and that money will be returned.

As for the proposed tax on foreign long staple cotton, which now comes into this country, duty free, to depress the price of our Sea Island staple, it is practically certain that every Sea Island cotton grower in the South warmly endorses Mr. Clark's bill; and as protection against foreign competition is the fixed policy of the Government, republican consistency demands that that bill shall pass. Our congressman is appealing to that consistency with some prospect of success, and the more he hammers the better that prospect grows. The whole history of congressional legislation shows that very many measures, hopeless when introduced, were finally and after the lapse of a number of sessions, enacted into law as the result of persistent effort that refused to become discouraged, and that is evidently the spirit in which Mr. Clark is working for the passage of these two bills.

It is unfair in the extreme to charge him with "grand stand playing" because he is sticking to his purpose with such admirable tenacity, and the people of this district are sure to resent such unfairness by re-electing him to congress.

The recent controversy as to what editor had been longest in continuous service in Florida seems to have been settled in favor of Editor Harris, of the Ocala Banner; and now the question is, what editor in the entire United States can justly claim the proud distinction of having been longest in the harness. An interesting contribution to that question is the following which we take from the last issue of the American Press, and which will be especially interesting to Confederate veterans, one of whose number modestly aspires to the honor:

"Anent the still unsettled question of what journalist has been longest in continuous service as a managing editor, or publisher and editor, we have the following from Marion H. Ingram, editor and proprietor of the Winamac (Ind.) Democrat-Journal: 'The editor of the Democrat-Journal has been in continuous service as editor and proprietor for nearly forty-five years. He came to Winamac from Grenada, Miss., in January, 1865, and in the following February bought the Winamac Democrat, which in 1884 he consolidated with the Journal. His first newspaper purchase was the Granada (Miss.) Locomotive, now the Sentinel, which he published in 1859-60, and at the outbreak

## TOMORROW'S RESOLUTIONS.

The time for your annual good resolutions is again at hand, and we trust that no one will be deterred from making them because those previously made have been broken so often that the habit has become a subject for jest and much flippant and ill-considered talk. The beauty about a good resolution is that it can sustain fractures innumerable without losing either its life or its virtue, and if the resolute keeps at it he may win out in the end, and that will be worth the pain of all the previous fractures. The very purpose to make a good resolution, even though the will should prove too weak to keep it, shows that you are worth saving and are on the right road. Keep on fighting your besetting sins. Keep on making good resolutions, provided you do it sincerely, no matter if you do break them, and some glorious day you'll find that they have reached the sticking point at last and you have been redeemed from the degrading slavery of habits hurtful to all that was best in you—and, perhaps, dragging you down to hell. All the truth and honor and virtue in the world today; all the high, strong manhood and pure, noble womanhood; all that makes life worth living, were achieved only after the failure of innumerable good resolutions made by ourselves and our ancestors, and if discouragement and indifference had resulted from such failure the world would have been a moral chaos today. The more good resolutions registered tomorrow in good faith by strong and weak alike, the less of sin and sorrow there will be in the year 1910.

Ex-Governor Broward sends out word that his candidacy for the United States senate is a sure thing, no matter what may have been rumored to the contrary, and, with his usual, but sometimes mistaken, confidence in the dear people, he says that if the vote were taken now he would win easily over all competitors. The ex-governor is a formidable man anywhere you put him, and he is going to make a strenuous campaign to realize his highest ambition, but we hazard the prediction that senatorial laurels are not for him—at least not this time.

The South loses a sturdy friend and advocate, and Mississippi a most loyal and devoted son by the death of Senator A. J. McLaurin, of that State, which occurred last week. The deceased statesman, starting from an humble beginning (he called himself a hill-billy), won his way steadily upward by force of strong ability, dogged determination and an ambition that never faltered or relaxed. He achieved the highest honors that his State could bestow upon him, and he deserved them. "Old Anse" had a marvelous hold upon the confidence and affections of the plain people of Mississippi, and they deplore his death perhaps more as that of a personal friend than a public servant. The legislature will elect his successor a few weeks hence, and ex-Governor Vardaman is among the candidates for the place.

## HEMP AND BACKBONE.

Judge Wall Makes Pertinent Remarks to Jurors in Tampa.

"What we need is the judicious administration of hemp," said Judge J. B. Wall in the midst of his address to the grand jury yesterday on the carnival of crime which has been prevalent here. It was the opening of the term.

"I regret," he said, "that there has been so many cases of homicide here. I do not know what is getting into the people. While I was away from here a few days ago a man approached me and asked me how many murders there had been committed since I left home. He said that he understood that there are about six a week here. Unless something is done to stop it and to keep these impressions from going abroad I do not know what we are going to do. What we need is the judicious administration of hemp.

"Let the petit jurors stiffen their backbone. When a man deliberately murders another they should not bring in recommendations for mercy to the man who ought to be hanged, but it is no mercy to the man who is going to be shot down from the business. Give your full investigation to these cases, and I hope that the petit jurors will have backbone enough to do their duty. We have just as good jurors here as any place, and I do not want them to

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